



Sunshine Academy

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Parent Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday June 28, 2017 4:30PM - 5:45PM

Staff Updates

- Andrew gave an overview of transitions in the early education field and how SA and Brookline as a whole are very fluid environments
 - The average retention of a SA teacher is 3-5 years
 - New teachers have been replaced in T-1(Barbara Meronnis, Gabriela Herrera), T-2 (Sabrina Cassetana) and Preschool (Shirley Meronnis).
 - Infants will be seeking a new teacher
- Board shared recommendations on helping with transition
 - Advise/ communicate with parents sooner
 - Post pictures of new teachers

Review 2017/2018 Calendar:

- The academic calendar for 2017 and 2018 is posted on the school's website and in the parent handbook. We always publish 2 years in advance in order for families to plan ahead for school closings. Currently the 2019 closings are not listed, but we will be closed on Monday December 31st, 2018 and Tuesday January 1st, 2019. At the next PAB meeting in September, we will discuss the academic calendar for 2019.

Extra days for Pre-K Graduates:

- Conversation about classroom transitions were discussed.
 - Talked about readiness/space
 - Not taking any new children currently for Pre-School or Pre-K
 - Discussed the transition schedule in general and the process *if additional questions ask Chelsea

Young Composers:

- Every summer Dave works with the Pre-K classrooms on a capstone project called the Young Composers Project. The goal is to teach children the basics of music

composition and offer them the opportunity to compose and record their own original songs. Dave uses a system of shape visuals and corresponding sounds to show children how to create musical patterns. In small groups, the children use computer software, designed by Dave, to compose and record their own songs with lyrics. The songs are arranged on a CD and are presented at Stepping Up Day.

Chinese Program:

- Dongdong has been appointed the new full time Mandarin teacher and will start part time till a replacement for her is found.

Upcoming Events:

- Stepping up Day Wednesday August 30, 2017; Pre-K ceremony 5:00-5:30
- Professional Development Day Friday September 1st, 2017 (school will be closed)